

DOE Weekly Field Memo – May 6, 2009

From the Department:

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- Message from Commissioner Vilaseca Regarding Title I Schools
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From the Vermont Council on Rural Development:

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Message from Commissioner Vilaseca Regarding Parent/Teacher Conferences and In-Service Days

Audience: Principals, Superintendents

Please read this important memo from Commissioner Vilaseca outlining expectations for how schools can better accommodate working parents getting involved in their child's education.

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/maindept.html#memos>.

Contact: Jill Remick, Communications Director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

Message from Commissioner Vilaseca Regarding Title I Schools

Audience: Principals, Superintendents

Please read this important memo from Commissioner Vilaseca explaining expectations for Title I School accountability determinations and Title I set-asides for supplemental services at

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/maindept.html#memos>.

Contact: Jill Remick, Communications Director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

CORRECTED IDEA-B Guidance from Vermont Department of Education ARRA Coordinator

Audience: Special Education Administrators, EEE Coordinators, Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers

In an IDEA guidance conference call with the field on April 30, the department erroneously reported the percentage of special education reimbursement to LEAs was reduced for FY2010 from 57 percent to 53 percent. In fact, the reimbursement rate for special education costs has not changed. To date, it continues at approximately 57 percent. We apologize for any confusion this may have created. For this and other information, visit: http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/recovery_act.html#correction.

Contact: Margaret Schelley at (802) 828-5119 or margaret.schelley@state.vt.us.

IDEA-B/ARRA Funds Conference Call – Second Round: Question & Answer Opportunity

Audience: Special Education Administrators, EEE Coordinators, Superintendents, Principals

A second Q&A opportunity with department staff is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Karin Edwards, Rae Ann Knopf and Margaret Schelley will be fielding questions regarding the IDEA ARRA funds. They will answer as many questions as time allows. Please [review the IDEA ARRA memo of April 22](#) as you consider questions. To send questions in advance of the call, e-mail karin.edwards@state.vt.us. Call 1-866-642-1665 and use passcode 196408 to participate in the Q&A opportunity.

Contact: Marcy Martin at (802) 828-5119 or marcy.martin@state.vt.us.

State Special Education Funding – Estimated FY-2009 Final Worksheets A & B - Due May 22nd, 2009

Audience: Superintendents, Special Education Directors and Business Managers

View and download instructions and forms for special education expenditure reports used by Vermont school districts to report their special education costs for state funding. A technical guide, forms and

sample showing the required staff documentation for special education eligible cost for state funding are also provided. The deadline has been established as May 22nd to submit estimated final Worksheets A and B. This will allow school districts to claim and receive reimbursement for additional costs incurred for FY-2009 before the end of the fiscal year. The submission is optional but costs not claimed at this time will not be reimbursed until the payments based on the final FY-2009 Special Education Expenditure Reports are processed in September. The instructions for completing these forms are included in the document on the department Web site at

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_finance_sped.html#expenditure.

Contact: For information on submitting the Worksheet A and B forms, please contact Margaret Schelley at (802) 828-5119 or Lisa Allard at (802) 828-0769. For questions about specific students listed on Worksheet A contact Donna Trucksess at (802) 828-5931.

Vermont Item Bank Assessments – Informational Learning Network of Vermont (LNV) Video Conference

Audience: Principals, Curriculum Coordinators, Middle/High School Educators

The Standards & Assessment team has scheduled two informational sessions about the Vermont Item Bank Assessments for grades 8 through 10. The sessions will be via video conference (Learning Network of Vermont) on May 12 and 13 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Most high schools in Vermont have the capability to access this technology. Several LNV sites have agreed to host a connection to the meeting. [Please sign-up for a site here](#), or if your school has LNV and you are interested in joining from your site, please contact Arlyn Brucoli. The Vermont Item Bank Assessments are diagnostic, local assessment tools aligned with Vermont's Grade Expectations for reading and math. This resource is available to all schools in Vermont via Riverdeep Learning Village. For more information and to download the "Suggestions & Guidelines for Use" document, visit the DOE Web site at

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_curriculum.html#item_bank.

Contact Arlyn Brucoli at arlyn.brucoli@state.vt.us or (802) 828-0223 (technology access), Marty Gephart at marty.gephart@state.vt.us or (802) 828-1462 (reading), or Denise Maurice at denise.maurice@state.vt.us or (802) 828-2173 (math).

Vermont Science Initiative

Audience: Curriculum Coordinators, Principals, K-8 Teachers

The Vermont Science Initiative (VSI) now has even more offerings to support science for K-8 teachers in Vermont. In addition to the Tier I Masters Program, VSI is now accepting applications for the new Science Leadership Academy as another pathway to developing science teacher leaders. The Leadership Academy is a 13-15 credit program offering coursework in Pedagogy, Science Assessment, Leadership, and Science content. VSI Tier II continues to be offered as a one-year professional development program in both science content and pedagogy designed specifically for a group of teachers from a supervisory union, district, school or ESA region. Priority for Tier II sites will be given to districts that have at least one teacher enrolling in the VSI Tier I or Leadership Academy programs. VSI courses are also open for single course enrollment to any K-8 teacher until filled. For more information and for applications please visit vtscience.org or http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_curriculum/mathematics/initiatives.html#vsi.

Contact: Renee Affolter at renee.affolter@jsc.vsc.edu, Maura O'Brien at mobrien@wested.org, or Pat Fitzsimmons at (802)-828-0196 or pat.fitzsimmons@state.vt.us.

From the Vermont Department of Health:

H1N1 Swine Flu Update: Important Guidance Regarding School Closure

Audience: All

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) no longer recommends that communities with a laboratory-confirmed case of influenza A H1N1 consider adopting school dismissal or childcare closure measures. Rather, CDC has modified its policy to recommend implementation of measures that focus on keeping all students, faculty and staff with symptoms of influenza out of schools and childcare facilities during their period of illness and recuperation, when they are potentially infectious to others. The new guidance is available at: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/k12_dismissal.htm.

For the latest guidance on flu from the Vermont Department of Health, visit <http://www.healthvermont.gov/>.

Fit and Healthy Kids School Wellness Awards

Audience: All

Approximately 20 schools applied for the 2009 Fit and Healthy Kids School Wellness Awards, an award

sponsored by Fit and Healthy Kids, the New England Dairy Council, and Vermont's Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK) to recognize schools for creating healthy environments for students. Each school that applied has been invited to attend the Vermont Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (VTAHPERD) annual Intergenerational Wellness Walk on May 13th where they will receive a certificate from Governor Douglas. Three top scoring schools will receive certificates and a financial reward from Vermont's AFHK for their outstanding efforts: Franklin Central School in Franklin will be awarded \$500.00, Ferrisburgh Central School and Bristol Elementary will each receive \$250.00. Contact: Suzanne Kelley at the Department of Health at (802) 657-4202 or skelley@sdh.state.vt.us.

From the Vermont Council on Rural Development:

Ireland and Vermont: Visionary Leaders Share Stories and Ideas

Audience: All

Monday May 11th at 7:00 p.m.; UVM's Ira Allen Chapel; FREE and open to the public
Join Ireland's former Prime Minister and a panel of leading Vermonters to discuss key visions and goals for the Future. The panel includes Commissioner Armando Vilaseca on the topic of Renewing PreK-12 Education in Vermont. This event is being put on by the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD). For more information Contact VCRD at (802) 223-6091.

Weekly Field Memo is Online!

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html. Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.